

# THE ARIZONA SILVER BELT.

VOL. X11.

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NO. 51

## THE ARIZONA SILVER BELT.

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## The Grand Canyon Explored.

(Mohave Miner.)

The exploring party under Chief Engineer Robert B. Stanton reached Diamond Creek Canyon, twenty miles north of Peach Springs, on the 1st inst. The party is surveying a route down the Colorado River for the Denver, Colorado & Pacific Railway Co. The writer spent an evening with Mr. Stanton, who related many incidents of the perilous trip of the party.

They left Denoyer on the 26th of November last, and by land and water reached the point in Marble Canyon where the expedition of last summer lost their leader and three members of the party.

The boats in which the party made their trip are of oak strips, copper riveted; and twenty feet long and four and a half beam, and contain ten airtight compartments, and are so constructed that it is almost impossible to upset them. Three of these boats were made and they cost about \$1,000. All the supplies were placed in rubber bags. On the trip one of the boats was caught on the rocks and so badly injured that it was abandoned. The river through the canyon is full of rapids which vary in length from a few rods to two miles, but no abrupt falls exist. The water is very swift and in every bend in the river eddies occur, but no whirlpools or rocks were encountered. The great danger to the boats were the rocks under water, the boats either running against them or catching on them. In many of the rapids waves twenty feet high were run over, the spray of the water drenching the men. All the party wore cork jackets and every precaution was taken against loss of life.

The entire length of the canyon on the scenery is grand and awe inspiring, and words are inadequate to describe its wonderful beauties.

About thirty-five miles above Diamond Creek Canyon, on the north side of the river, Mr. Stanton discovered the crater of an extinct volcano. The whole country around the crater is covered with lava, and the overflow at one time choked up the Colorado River, and the flow of lava is shown in the river bed within a few miles above Diamond Creek.

The walls of the canyon are not, as is generally supposed, precipitous, but are bench upon bench until they reach the height of 6,000 to 7,000 feet. The high water mark in the narrowest portions of the canyon is eighty feet.

Since Major Powell's trip through the canyon many changes have taken place. The rapids which were described by him as dangerous, were not so. But other rapids not noted by him were found, and in a number of places which required portage then there is plenty of water now. Of the half dozen pillars of lava which Powell reported, but one is standing, as the case of the three columns of sandstone, one only being left. With each great rise of water changes are made in the stream.

Mr. Stanton is confident that he can take a properly constructed steam launch safely up the canyon, and it may be in years to come that pleasure parties may make the trip in this manner.

The fall of the river from Grand River Junction to Diamond Creek is 4,000 feet, a distance of less than 600 miles. Some idea of the swiftness of the stream may be gained from this. The river is something less than 200 feet wide in the narrowest part of the canyon, and the boats would pass through many of the rapids with the speed of an express train.

Mr. Stanton is reticent on the subject of a railroad down the banks of the Colorado, and talks to no one about its practicability, although he leaves the impression that so far as he has explored the river a road can be built. But as to the cost he has no idea. He is just now making the survey and will, when he is through and compares his data, be able to tell pretty nearly the cost, and as to the practicability of the construction of the road, the projectors can determine when he makes his report.

It is excellent news to the people of this section of the Southwest to learn that instructions from the department of Indian affairs at Washington have been issued to Navajo Indian Agent C. E. Vandavey to immediately take active and proper steps to keep the members of that tribe, with the exception of those who have settled upon lands outside of their reservation for the purpose of taking homesteads, within the limits of their reservation, and to return roving Indians to the reservation. It is claimed that no less than 5,000 Indians will have to be moved back on the reservation, which means plenty of work for the agent during the next few months. Gallup (N. M.) Elk.

## Pressure on the Walnut Grove Dam.

(Financial and Mining Record.)

The dam was 110 feet high, and the lake it held back was the largest body of water in Arizona, covering a surface of 750 acres and impounding 4,000,000,000 gallons. The pressure upon the dam when the artificial lake bed was full of water was tremendous. The horizontal pressure or direct push on a section of the dam one foot wide and extending from top to bottom at the middle of the structure was about 190 tons, or an average of about 13 tons per square foot. Near the base the pressure was, of course, much greater, the overturning force of the water about the bottom of this part of the wall having been about 7,000 tons. It will be seen that the crushing force against the planking was very great, and unless it fitted snugly against the granite, it would have been broken, and a very small break would have permitted the escape of a large amount of water. A crack near the bottom of the dam measuring only one-quarter of an inch by twelve inches, would have allowed a flow of 7,860 gallons per minute or 471,600 gallons in an hour. Of course, the gradual escape of the water at this rate would not be the worst consequence of such a break, for the flow of water would tend to weaken and undermine the dam, though built of stone.

### Fort Sill Went Do.

General Miles, in a recent interview on the subject of the removal of the Chiricahua Apaches, said: "If they are sent to Fort Sill there is nothing to prevent them from getting into the mountains of New Mexico. There are some other Apaches there, renegades from the Mesquero agency. They go back and forth every season. They can ride across in five days. The Apaches, Comanches, and Kiowas now there have a perfect knowledge of the country. If these fellows are sent there they will be together, mounted, and possibly armed in six weeks. Once started it would be difficult to intercept them, and I think there would be great danger of exciting the Kiowas and Comanches. I think it would be exceedingly dangerous to place these Apaches at Fort Sill. I think the people of Arizona would have just cause for apprehension. I have no confidence whatever in those Indians and it would be a terrible mistake to move them. I believe that they should be placed somewhere in the mountains of North Carolina. It is the best place for them."

### Reports Favorable.

N. S. Booth has completed his investigation of the alleged timber trespass near Flagstaff, and has forwarded his report to the department at Washington. He has no hesitancy in stating that he found nothing criminal on the part of the Ayer Lumber Company or the Arizona Lumber Company, but on the contrary found that they had used every precaution possible to prevent the cutting of timber on government land and where contractors had occasionally inadvertently crossed the line they were immediately discharged. Every agent that has ever investigated these cases intelligently has made the same report and the suits now pending, both criminal and civil, are the result of either political malice or grossest kind of ignorance on the part of those bringing them.—Prescott Journal.

When the government buys what every one produces, and pensions every individual in the nation with the taxes collected from every one, we shall have arrived at Bellamy's ideal state, and the government will, of course, then dictate what shall be produced and who shall produce it. We confess the Bellamy scheme seems to us to be a sensible and practical plan compared with some of the schemes proposed, and we are accustomed ourselves to "looking forward" to its adoption at an early date of the present craze for government help in every industry and by every individual continues. Before long we may expect every business to draw a bounty in some shape and every individual to get a pension.—Engineering and Mining Journal.

The settlers of this valley who have had occasion to transact business with the land office in Tucson are unanimous in their praise of the courteous treatment extended them and the promptness with which their business is transacted. The new land officers found a vast accumulation of work on their hands, much of which was of a very imperfect character and required perfecting. They have about disposed of all this, in addition to current business, and they are to be commended for their industry and efforts to please the people.—Florence Enterprise.

## Cattle Convention.

At the International State Cattle Convention, held at Fort Worth, Texas, the depression of the cattle industry was discussed at length. Hon. Charles E. Leonard, of Missouri, took the position that if Texas could kill and refrigerate her cattle at home and find a profitable foreign market, the problem of obtaining better prices for the cattle in other States would be solved. It was the immense numbers of Texas cattle placed on the market, frequently glutting it that forced prices down and made it possible for the dressed-beef men in Chicago to fix the price of all the cattle in the country. H. W. L. Black, of Fort McKavitt, Tex., advocated the establishment of bureaus of information in each State, these bureaus to be conducted by the National Government if necessary. It should be the duty of this bureau's officers to collect statistics and information of the state of the market, giving the number of cattle offered for sale daily, and the number in transit to the great cattle markets of the country. With this information in his possession the cattle-raiser would not ship when the market was full and it could never be glutted. Each State should have a central point at which this information could be obtained at any time. Cattle exchanges should be established and cattle graded. In selling cattle could be sold by grade and the scalawags in a shipment of cattle would not fix the value on all the cattle.

L. R. Harkness held that under consumption was the cause of the depression of prices, and that cattle interests suffered no more than other interests. Corn was selling at 10c. per bushel in Kansas, and wheat at 50c. per bushel, and the American people would consume everything produced if they had the money to buy, and would buy the best we had.

B. E. Stafford, of Texas, favored the establishment of large refrigerators at Fort Worth, Columbus and Victoria, and one on the Gulf coast, with adjacent pasturage sufficient to hold all surplusage of cattle. The deficit of cattle in England, Germany, France and Belgium was 800,000 tons per annum. If the deficit could be supplied by Texas and other range States, our seeming overproduction of cattle would not make the price for all cattle.

The result of the discussion was the adoption of a resolution that the Convention fully investigate the bureau of information plan, and that a committee composed of J. L. Brush of Colorado, E. B. Harold of Texas, A. J. Dull of Wyoming, G. W. Gentry of Missouri, and Gov. Glyck of Kansas, prepare a report on refrigerators.

### Uncle Sam's Border Line.

M. Louise Ford, in the February Wide Awake, tells how the boundary line between the United States and the British possessions on the north is defined. Where the line enters forests the timber is cut down, and the ground cleared a rod wide; where it crosses small lakes stone cairns have been built, sometimes being eighteen feet under water and eight above; in other places earth mounds seven by fourteen feet have been built. The most of these monuments, which number three hundred and eighty-eight in all, are of iron. It was found that the most solid wooden posts were not proof